

APRIL 2, 2003

## HEALTH UPDATE

### **North Dakota Expands Smallpox Vaccination Program**

The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the expansion of Phase I of the state's Smallpox Vaccination Program.

"In order to respond swiftly and efficiently in the event smallpox is used as a weapon against our country, North Dakota must have additional personnel prepared to deliver the vaccinations," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle. "We are asking volunteers from a broad range of medical expertise to receive the vaccine and be ready to help with any needed mass vaccination clinics."

The following health professionals are included in the expansion of Phase I: nurses, physicians, pharmacists, first responders, emergency medical technicians, dentists, veterinarians and other health care technicians. Those who volunteer for this important role will receive training and will be vaccinated against smallpox.

A webcast designed to provide information about the expanded program and to answer any questions volunteers may have is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2003, at 1 p.m. People may participate through live video streaming on the North Dakota Department of Health website at <http://www.health.state.nd.us/Webcastcalendar/LongtermRept.asp>. Following the seminar, a copy of the program will be archived on the Department of Health website for later viewing.

Health professionals who are interested in volunteering for the expanded Smallpox Vaccination Program can contact the regional bioterrorism director in their area:

- Faye Moe, Upper Missouri District Health Unit – 701.577.3763
- Marv Wierenga, First District Health Unit – 701.852.1376
- Justin Maddock, Lake Region District Health Unit – 701.662.7094
- Wendy Opsahl, Grand Forks Public Health Department – 701.787.8111
- Jim Hausauer, Fargo Cass Public Health – 701.476.4037
- Tami Dillman, Central Valley Health Unit – 701.252.8130
- Cheryl Underhill, Bismarck Fire and Inspections – 701.258.2070
- Joe Wanner, Southwestern District Health Unit – 701.483.3765

For more information about the webcast or the state's Smallpox Vaccination Program, contact Tim Wiedrich at 701.328.2270.

#### *Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota Emergency Medical Association, North Dakota Firefighters Association, state fire marshal and hospital public information officers.*